Summary of the Thesis

This study was based on both primary and secondary data and both quantitative and qualitative methods were applied to allow greater flexibility of data analysis. The locale of the study was three main destinations in Himachal Pradesh i.e. Shimla, Kullu, and Kangra. This research was done to examine the sustainability of tourism by finding out the ways to remove the gaps between current government policy, contemporary tourism services and sustainability of tourism in the state. For this purpose different questionnaires for 435 sample size i.e. 180 tourists, 120 administrators, and 135 service providers were suitably designed to evaluate the level of efficacy of current Himachal Pradesh Government’s policy and action plans towards achieving the sustainable tourism goals through the twelve aims of sustainable tourism i.e. economic viability, local prosperity, employment quality, social equity, visitor fulfilment, local control, community wellbeing, cultural richness, physical integrity, biological diversity, resource efficiency, and environmental. It can be concluded that the current Himachal Pradesh government policy and action plans are almost effective tools in achieving the economic, socio, and environmental goals of sustainable tourism. Albeit, the government should make more endeavours for maximum fulfill of resources exploitation with a sustainable approach especially for aims of local prosperity, community wellbeing, and resource efficiency. It has found that the main hurdles to policy implementation were lack of financial resources and inexperienced officials. Incidentally, it has revealed that tourists had great experience during their stay in Himachal Pradesh.